

CMAP Working Committees & Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting summaries

Citizens' Advisory Committee

Staff Contact: John Allen

At its April 6 meeting, the CAC voted to install Bill Balling as its co-chairman. The committee also voted to send a resolution to the Programming Committee supporting the proposed Developments of Regional Importance (DRI) process with the following three changes: that the thresholds be revisited in an effort to lower them; that population be added as a fourth threshold; and that the CAC be added as a body that can request a DRI. The committee received updates and discussed this summer's planned outreach activities in connection with *GO TO 2040*.

Economic & Community Development

Staff Contact: Brian Rademacher

The Economic and Community Development Committee met on March 24. A representative from the Chicago Jobs Council gave a presentation on a Workforce Development strategy report that highlighted regional trends in the labor market, workforce programs and goals for workforce development. The committee asked staff to explain how reports by external agencies fold into the planning process, where and how the working committees will be integrated into the process and what the final expectations of this report were to be. A second presentation, coordinated by the Chicago Community Trust, was made on the topic of education that outlined existing conditions of the educational system in the region and identified key issues recommending strategies for the different educational levels. Since feedback was sought, the committee did recommend that consideration should be given on how funding affects access to education and the role of school districts in the future of education. Developments of Regional Importance (DRIs) were also discussed. The committee expressed concerns that the thresholds identified in the process were high, that very few developments would be eligible as a DRI and recommended that if the three quantitative thresholds remain and a project meets one of the thresholds it should automatically qualify as a DRI. It was also recommended that the following questions be added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) portion: (a) why do we have a DRI process? and (b) what are the benefits of going through the DRI process? The committee will meet again on April 28, 2009.

Environment & Natural Resources

Staff Contact: Jesse Elam

The Environment and Natural Resources committee met on April 1. Staff presented a draft list of metrics for evaluating major capital projects in the *GO TO 2040* Plan based on work undertaken for CMAP by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Volpe Center. Committee members were asked to review scenario assignments for land conservation in *GO TO 2040*, and they also heard an overview of summer and fall public outreach activities for the comprehensive regional plan. Finally, the committee continued work on proposed alternative thresholds for the Developments of Regional Importance process, which are to be presented to the Programming Coordinating Committee at its April meeting.

Housing

Staff Contact: Lee Deuben

The Housing Committee met on March 16, 2009 and was asked by committee Co-Chair, Beth Dever, to provide any final comments regarding the Developments of Regional Importance report for

CMAP Working Committees & Citizens' Advisory Committee meeting summaries

inclusion to the Programming Committee meeting on April 8, 2009. Final comments were as follows: 1) The thresholds may be so high that no development, especially in the next two years, will qualify; 2) Suggestion: revisit the transit question/threshold. Possibly add a public transportation piece to the transit threshold that currently exists, or add a new threshold. No specific comments or recommendations; 3) NOTE: these comments reflect the views of many of the Housing Committee members. One in opposition to any change: Attainable Housing Alliance. Next, Lee Deuben provided the committee with a brief overview of housing related ARRA programs including, the Neighborhood Stabilization Program, the Weatherization Program, and the Homeless Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing funds. Ms. Deuben suggested that the without knowing the HUD guidelines for the next round of NSP dollars (which is a federally competitive grant), that CMAP is preparing strategies to assure that the northeastern Illinois region is competitive for these dollars. Next, Adam Gross provided an update on the Vacant and Abandoned Building Legislations currently in Springfield and reported that the legislation is aimed to do three things: 1) Provide notification on foreclosed properties to municipalities; 2) Provide municipalities the authority to establish land banks; and, 3) Provide municipalities the authority to maintain vacant properties as well as to move up municipal liens over bank liens so that municipalities can recover costs incurred by maintaining foreclosed properties. Mr. Gross also reported that the legislative discussions are going very well, and that there several House sponsors to-date. Bob Dean provided the housing committee a presentation on scenario construction as part of the *GO TO 2040* process. Andrew Williams-Clark conducted a Preservation Strategy Panel discussion with housing committee members. Mr. William Clark presented the Preservation strategy methodology and results, and gathered feedback and reactions from committee member for inclusion into the analysis.

Human Services

Staff Contact: Russell Pietrowiak

There is no report from the Human Services Committee. It met in early March and is not scheduled to meet again until April 14, 2009.

Land Use

Staff Contact: Ty Warner

The Land Use Committee met on March 18. After an invitation from CMAP's Diana Torres to attend the "Future Leaders in Planning" presentation at Adler Planetarium on April 23, there was brief discussion on HB 270 to appoint two seats to the CMAP Board. Chairman Mark Avery, who also represents the Land Use Committee on the Programming Coordinating Committee, relayed the current status of the DRI document, which was followed by a summary, discussion, and questions regarding key elements of the new draft. The Committee also received an update of the *GO TO 2040* scenario development process with discussion before adjourning to the strategy panel and webinar on Agricultural Preservation and food systems issues. The next meeting is scheduled for April 15.

Transportation

Staff Contact: Teri Dixon

There is no report from the Transportation Committee. It met in early March and is not scheduled to meet again until April 24, 2009.

###